



Western South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division Region 1
February 20, 2015



Durkee Lake – Limited angler reports, but the few that have tried their luck have Region 1 Wildlife Report

North District

DATE: 02-19-2015

Butte/Lawrence/Meade/Perkins Counties/Ziebach

Reporting Officers: DCOS Mike Apland, WCO Bill Eastman. WCO Keith Mutschler, WCO Ross Fees, WCO Fred Hein

Fishing -

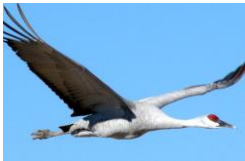


With this year's winter weather, anglers need to pay special attention to current ice conditions. Remember ice conditions can change rapidly and may be different from your last trip out. Check ice before venturing out, look for open water, and avoid pressure ridges.

- **Butte County**
 - **Belle Fourche Res/Orman** – Angler success has slowed since earlier reports. Be careful of current ice conditions.
- **Lawrence**
 - Angler success and reports have deteriorated some in the past few weeks.
- **Meade County**
 - **Bear butte lake** - Activity has been slow. Anglers should use caution as ice has started to deteriorate.

- **Ft Meade** – Ice has started to deteriorate. A few people have reported catching perch and a few bass.
- **Durkee Lake** – Angler pressure has been limited, but a few nice northern pike and largemouth bass have been pulled through the ice.
- **Flat Creek** – Ice appears to be honeycombed in several areas. A few nice northern pike have been caught in the past week.
- **Others Perkins County**
 - **Shadehill Reservoir** - Ice is unstable and caution should be used.
 - Some of our smaller stock dams had open water on them this past week. Most of this water has frozen over. The ice is unstable and caution should be used when on the ice.
- been able to catch a few northern pike.
- **Perkins County**
 - **Shadehill Reservoir** - Ice is unstable and caution should be used. All the heavens that were open have froze over and are hard to see with the recent snow.
 - **Flat Creek** – Ice appears to be honeycombed in several areas. A few nice northern pike have been caught in the past week.
 - **Others** - Some of our smaller stock dams had open water on them this past week. Most of this water has frozen over. The ice is unstable and caution should be used when on the ice.

Hunting Report:



Waterfowl – The Canada goose season is only open in Unit 2 (review unit boundary map). Unit 2 season dates are Nov 3 – Feb 15. Good geese numbers are hanging around Shadehill, but are flying late in the day.

Small Game – No report

Big Game – No report



Other Seasons - Coyote numbers seem up this year and comparing low gas prices to fur prices, hunters/trappers are enjoying the challenge of harvesting coyotes.

Land Report: This time of the year the department is signing up land for next years public hunting programs. If interested in learning more about such programs contact your local conservation officer.

Misc.

- **HuntSafe** – Classes are currently being scheduled across the state. Visit the GFP website under outdoor learning to check for upcoming classes in your area. If you don't see a class in your area, check periodically for updates to come.



Central District

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

Reporting Officers: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen
DCOS McCormick

DATE: 2/11/2015

Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota

Black Hills area lakes and streams:



All lakes have been constantly starting to loose ice with the nice weather. Prairie Lakes seem to be extremely bad for ice condition with some opening up in spots and ice disappearing around the shores. Hills lakes are now starting to follow the same pattern. It is not recommended to ice fish under the current condition. If doing so exercise extreme caution and fish at your own risk.

Wildlife:

Elk: Closed
Deer: Closed
Small Game: Closed



Thank you for exercising fair chase hunting practices; securing permission to hunt on private property and helping to police our hunting heritage. Officers this fall have received handfuls of great calls regarding illegal hunting issues including baiting big game, shooting from motor vehicles, shooting from public roads, and failure to tag big game. Thank you for your support and observations.

If you witness hunting violations, you may choose to remain anonymous and assist officers by calling the TIPS hotline. The number is printed on the front cover of the 2014 fishing and hunting handbooks. Do your best to collect the license number of the vehicle involved? Your call will assist officers with making contact with the individuals involved and changing their future hunting behavior. Illegal hunting behavior is destructive to the future of our hunting heritage.

Wildlife Report

Southern District

Date: 2/10/2015

County: **Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson**

Reporting Officer: WCO Tom Beck

Fishing Activity:

Angling is slow as it is still difficult to get to many of the ponds. The ice doesn't look good on many of the lakes. Please be extremely careful if venturing onto it. Springs and areas with vegetation will likely have very thin ice. Ponds with springs, such as the Trout Ponds, are open. A few people are fishing the Cedar Creek trout ponds. Angling has been slow, but a few trout are being taken.

Hunting Report:



Waterfowl – There are lots and lots of ducks and geese in the area. It is a great time for photographing them. I've also seen quite a few trumpeter swans in harvested corn fields around the area also.

Small Game – warm weather has started moving the pheasants away from their wintering areas. I've seen a number of roosters strutting around thinking it is spring. I suspect they will be put in their place by a snow storm or two before spring actually gets here.

Big Game – The warm weather has moved a lot of the deer from the wintering areas to areas that are starting to green up again. This break in winter has helped all wildlife regain some of their lost fat and hopefully they will have a better chance of making it through the next storm.

District Report- Just a quick reminder that the 2014 licenses expired January 31st. Anyone hunting, fishing, or trapping needs to pick up a 2015 license prior to going. They can be purchased online or at some sporting stores.

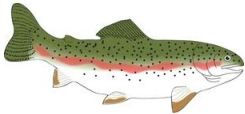


Date: 2/11/2015

County: **West Custer/West Pennington**

Reporting Officer: WCO Jacob Ehlert

Fishing: Deerfield has good ice conditions even with warm weather. Perch and trout fishing have been outstanding. Very little pressure, fishing has been better near the dam. Use caution near the edges of the lake as ice has been flooded and is melting.



Big Game: Lion hunting has been extremely slow. I expect the snow on Tuesday to improve the hunt.

Furbearers:

Bobcat season ends on Sunday. I expect a few more cats to come in before the season ends. Make sure you are checking your traps according to the law, lots of trap check violations this year.

If you have any information please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!



Date: 2/11/2015

County: East Custer/South Pennington
Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietz

Fishing Activity:

Open water and poor ice conditions have all but ended ice fishing in the park. Open water fishing is available at Center Lake.

Lakota, Bismarck and Horse thief lakes have all been drained for the fall and winter, some fish have been removed and transferred to other waters. Work on cleaning out the sediment has begun at Bismarck with Lakota lake next on the list. We have also started the planning process on what species of fish to stock in these waters once they fill up. There will be some public input meetings to follow.

Big Game:

Mountain lion season is in full swing and conditions have started out great. We have completed almost 8 weeks of the season and 23 lions have been taken (as of this writing).

The season will end March 31 or when the quota of 75 lions or 50 female lions is met.

The Feb 5 2nd session of the limited hound access lion hunt in Custer State Park produced a nice mature male mountain lion. This is a unique opportunity for hunters to hunt lions with the use of hounds. Lions taken in CSP will be counted in the quota.

The GFP commission adopted a rule to allow the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions on the prairie outside of the Black Hills.

Please be respectful of private property, we have been busy taking calls in regards to hunters trespassing on private lands this fall.

District Report:

And as always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tips hotline.

1-888-683-7224.

Date: 2/11/2015

County: Fall River

Deer: Closed

Small Game: Closed

Thank you for exercising fair chase hunting practices; securing permission to hunt on private property and helping to police our hunting heritage. Officers this fall have received handfuls of great calls regarding illegal hunting issues including baiting big game, shooting from motor vehicles, shooting from public roads, and failure to tag big game. Thank you for your support and observations.

If you witness hunting violations, you may choose to remain anonymous and assist officers by calling the TIPS hotline. The number is printed on the front cover of the 2014 fishing and hunting handbooks. Do your best to collect the license number of the vehicle involved? Your call will assist officers with making contact with the individuals involved and changing their future hunting behavior. Illegal hunting behavior is destructive to the future of our hunting heritage.

Waterfowl:



Unit 2 Canada Goose season is currently open. Waterfowl hunting opportunities are limited in the central west river zone.

District Report- I understand the female otter was found dead on LaCreek yesterday. At this point we do not know the cause of the death, but she will likely be examined to determine what killed her.

Furbearers:

: **Fall River**

Fishing Activity:

Ice is pretty questionable. No report.



Hunting Report:



Small Game: Waterfowl hunters are still finding some goose hunting opportunities in certain areas. Most of the area water has iced over now and the birds are spending

Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder
a lot of time in the fields.

Big Game: We are seeing several hunters out trying to locate lions. The lack of snow and warm weather has slowed the hunting success down.

Trapping/Furbearers --- Started seeing some bobcats harvested. The recent weather has made trapping a little more challenging. Those hunting bobcats need to remember that most hunters must have the furbearer license to legally harvest one.

Land Report:

Trappers should be reminded that you must obtain permission to trap on Walk-In-Areas. Game, Fish and Parks is only leasing the hunting rights - - not the trapping privileges.

Waterfowl hunters need to be aware that it is illegal to hunt near the Fall River Feedlot - - it would be a violation of the “baiting” regulations. Please read your hunting handbook to refresh on the rules.

Date: 2/11/2015

County:

County: East Custer/South Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietsort

Fishing Activity:

Open water and poor ice conditions have all but ended ice fishing in the park. Open water fishing is available at Center Lake.

Lakota, Bismarck and Horse thief lakes have all been drained for the fall and winter, some fish have been removed and transferred to other waters. Work on cleaning out the sediment has begun at Bismarck with Lakota lake next on the list. We have also started the planning process on what species of fish to stock in these waters once they fill up. There will be some public input meetings to follow.

Big Game:

Mountain lion season is in full swing and conditions have started out great. We have completed almost 8 weeks of the season and 23 lions have been taken (as of this writing).

The season will end March 31 or when the quota of 75 lions or 50 female lions is met.

The Feb 5 2nd session of the limited hound access lion hunt in Custer State Park produced a nice mature male mountain lion. This is a unique opportunity for hunters to hunt lions with the use of hounds. Lions taken in CSP will be counted in the quota.

The GFP commission adopted a rule to allow the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions on the prairie outside of the Black Hills.

Please be respectful of private property, we have been busy taking calls in regards to hunters trespassing on private lands this fall.



Waterfowl hunters need to be aware that it is illegal to hunt near the Fall River Feedlot - - it would be a violation of the “baiting” regulations. Please read your hunting handbook to refresh on the rules.

District Report:

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don’t hesitate to call the TIP’s Hotline or the local Sheriff’s Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!!

2

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don’t hesitate to call the TIP’s Hotline or the local Sheriff’s Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!!

District Report:

And as always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tips hotline.

1-888-683-7224.

Date: 2/11/2015

County: Fall River

Fishing Activity:

Ice is pretty questionable. No report.



Hunting Report:



Small Game: Waterfowl hunters are still finding some goose hunting opportunities in certain areas. Most of the area water has iced over now and the birds are spending

**Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder
a lot of time in the fields.**

Big Game: We are seeing several hunters out trying to locate lions. The lack of snow and warm weather has slowed the hunting success down.

Trapping/Furbearers --- Started seeing some bobcats harvested. The recent weather has made trapping a little more challenging. Those hunting bobcats need to remember that most hunters must have the furbearer license to legally harvest one.

Land Report:

Trappers should be reminded that you must obtain permission to trap on Walk-In-Areas. Game, Fish and Parks is only leasing the hunting rights - - not the trapping privileges.

Waterfowl hunters need to be aware that it is illegal to hunt near the Fall River Feedlot - - it would be a violation of the “baiting” regulations. Please read your hunting handbook to refresh on the rules.

District Report:

District Report:

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don’t hesitate to call the TIP’s Hotline or the local Sheriff’s Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!!

Hunting Report:



Small Game: Waterfowl hunters are still finding some goose hunting opportunities in certain areas. Duck season is over – so the “pressure” is going to be less in the area. Most of the area water has iced over now and the birds are spending a lot of time in the fields.